

Building Company at Scarborough have applied to the town-council there for leave to build a bridge over Ramdale Valley, and to make a carriage and foot road from the pavilion adjoining the railway station to the South Cliff. Opposing interests are at issue against the project.—The whole work of restoration at Scarborough Church is to be continuously prosecuted, in place of being stopped and resumed, as was intended.—The new district church of All Saints, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, was opened on Sunday week. This church was built from a design by Mr. Dobson, of Newcastle, and is calculated to hold 500 people. A great portion of the sittings will be free. The cost of the erection is upwards of 2,000*l.*, chiefly public subscription.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE Manchester agent of the British Mutual Assurance Company (a respectable life office, in the success of which we feel interested), gives the following curious results of a personal canvass at 1,349 houses, in 70 streets, in the districts of Hulme and Charlton, chiefly rentals from 12*l.* to 24*l.* per annum. The inquiry showed that there were 29 insured; 8 persons too old; 11 who never heard of life assurance, and who were anxious to have it explained to them; 471 who had heard of it, but did not understand it; 419 who were disinclined to assure; 19 favourable, if their surplus incomes were not otherwise invested; 89 persons who had it under consideration, with a view to insure as soon as their arrangements were completed, and who appointed times for the agent to call again; 21 refused the circulars, or to allow an explanation; 171 doors not answered; 102 houses empty; 3 had sufficient property not to require it; 1 favourable, but afraid of litigation; 1 preferred the savings' bank; 1 used abusive language; 2 would trust their family to provide for themselves; and 1 had been rejected by an office, although he never was unwell, and was consequently afraid to try again, although very anxious.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

IMPORTANT DECISION UNDER THE COUNTY COURTS' ACT.

Garrett v. Sanderson.—In the Brompton County Court on Friday, May 18, the defendant (a widow) appeared to a judgment-summons requiring her to shew cause why an order of the Court, which was made on the 16th of February last, for the payment of 5*l.* 5*s.* for a quarter's rent, had not been complied with.

Mr. Dodd, the plaintiff's solicitor, said he should be able to satisfy the Court, that the defendant was not justified in taking the house, and submitted that by refusing to give up possession, she had contracted a debt without reasonable means of payment. The plaintiff had offered to forgive the defendant the rent if she would give up the key, but she refused to quit the premises on the ground that she had no place to go to. The 122nd clause of the 9th & 10th Vic. cap. 93, empowered his Honour to issue a warrant requiring the defendant to give up possession; but he (Mr. Dodd) would submit that this was a case which clearly came within the meaning of the 99th clause of the same statute, which enacts that if it shall appear to the judge that the defendant has incurred a debt under false pretences, or has wilfully contracted such liability without reasonable expectation of being able to pay the same, the judge may order such defendant to be committed to the House of Correction for any period not exceeding forty days. He should be able to show that the defendant did incur this debt under false pretences, having represented herself to be a person of property when she took the house, and that she would shortly come into possession of 1,000*l.* through the death of a brother. At that time she was, and has since been, in the receipt of parochial relief. In proof of that fact, he had obtained the relieving officer's certificate. It was perfectly clear that the defendant had no right to keep possession of the house, not being in a condition to pay the rent; and by so doing, coupled with the facts he (Mr. Dodd) had stated, she had evidently incurred a debt without any reasonable expectation of payment, and had subjected herself to imprisonment.

This statement having been borne out by evidence, the Court held, that the defendant remaining in the house was equivalent to a representation of being able to pay, and ordered her to be committed for seven days.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL court was held on Thursday the 17th, at the Court House, Greek-street, Lord Ebrington, M.P., in the chair.

The Ordnance Survey.—A recommendation was read from the Ordnance Survey Committee, that an application be made to the Ordnance Survey Department for levels, &c., of the area from the Counters Creek Sewer to Brentford, &c.—Mr. Chadwick, in support of the motion, said that the inhabitants of this district were most anxious for the active operation of the powers of this commission for a system of improved drainage.—Mr. Leslie, seeing Sir John Burgoyne present, wished to ask of him whether by consenting to the requirements of this new district, it would not have the effect of impeding the works required most urgently for the metropolis itself?—Sir John Burgoyne gave it as his opinion that the placing this district under their active operation, might be effected with but trifling delay, and at a very small expense.

Mr. R. L. Jones wished to be informed whether the proposed increased scale of ten feet to a mile was to apply to the whole of their districts; for if so, the expense of it might become a very serious consideration.—Mr. Chadwick said that it would be undesirable that the whole of their districts should be laid down on that scale, as in many parts, consisting mainly of fields, they should present but so many sheets of paper with scarcely a line upon them; but that they should have the enlarged scale for the closer and more densely populated districts. He might now mention that for sanitary purposes in Liverpool, it had been found necessary to have their maps enlarged to the 20 feet scale.

The motion was then put and unanimously agreed to.

A further recommendation from the Ordnance Survey Committee was read.—That 281 acres of the Ordnance plan of Westminster be enlarged to the 10 feet scale.—This recommendation, it was stated, was brought forward at the pressing solicitation of the Westminster Improvement Commissioners, who were unable to proceed with their works until a defined and settled plan of drainage was laid down.—Mr. Slaney said that there was not a more unhealthy district than this city.

Mr. Leslie expressed an opinion that these works ought to be effected for the benefit of the public at large.—It was explained, in reference to the application, that the Westminster Improvement Commissioners had no interest in the question but for public benefit. It was proposed and agreed to unanimously.—That in consequence of the pressing representations of the Westminster Improvement Commissioners, and the urgent requirements of the district, the recommendation be agreed to.

It was also proposed.—That 300 sheets of the Ordnance plan of the town area and suburbs be engraved by the Ordnance Map department, their estimate for an average sheet being 6*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

In support of this recommendation, Mr. Chadwick stated that the whole cost of the engraving of these plates would be defrayed within the estimate proposed for the Ordnance Survey alone, and no new charge would be incurred on that account.

The motion was put and agreed to unanimously.

A report was received from the By-laws Committee, to the effect that the commissioners had no right to dispose of any earth, stones, or gravel remaining after making good the ground for a sewer. This subject led to a long conversation, and, on the motion of Mr. Bullar, it was agreed that the doubtful points of the Act of Parliament should be referred to the By-laws Committee, with a view, if necessary, to obtaining fresh powers for the amendment of the same.

A communication was received from the Kent and Surrey Waterworks Company, on the subject of a definite and formal arrangement for a supply of water for the use of the sewers. Mr. Chadwick said it was a question open to them to consider whether they should provide water for themselves, or make arrangements with any of the existing companies. Several of the commissioners expressed opinions that no definite arrangement could be come to until it was ascertained what quantity of water would be required.

It was agreed that terms for a provisional agreement for a supply of water be drawn up between the commissioners and the water companies.

It was agreed that application be made to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, for a contribution of 500*l.* for proposed new works in the neighbourhood of Weston-street, Southwark, the company having accepted the offer made to them.

The Salaries of Officers.—On a recommendation from the Works Committee—that the salaries of Mr. Lovick and Mr. Donaldson, assistant sur-

vveyors, be from the end of the first year's service at the rate of 350*l.* a year—being read.

Mr. Chadwick moved the adoption of the report in the case of Mr. Lovick, who, he stated, had been appointed to the office from a perception of his worth alone, which was a rule he hoped to see followed in every other instance. He moved the adoption of the recommendation. Mr. Bullar seconded the motion.

Mr. Hawes wished to know whether this advanced salary was to include all charges made on account of their surveyors?

Mr. B. L. Jones complained of the large amount expended by their officers in cabs and other vehicles, in one case reaching 13*l.* in the quarter for this item alone. He could not, therefore, but again complain of the manner the business was being carried on in that court, by the officers being so continually called away from their duties in their attendance on committees. He then referred to a report made by Mr. Grant, their new assistant-surveyor, on a system of tubular drainage laid down by Mr. Phillips, their chief surveyor, a work that any common bricklayer could have performed. Here he was set to watch the work of their surveyor—they called upon a subordinate officer to give them that information they could have obtained from Mr. Phillips himself. It was quite idle to make such a reference at all.

Other commissioners having complained of the officers' charges.

Mr. Leslie believed that the purchase of two silver watches for the officers was the point some gentlemen were aiming at, but they were unwilling to say so.

Mr. Bullar said these watches were the property of the commission. They were stop-watches, to be used for experimental purposes; they were mere tools required to be used in their business, and the officers had as much right to order them as they had a spade or a pickaxe.

Lord Ebrington protested against it going forth to the public that they were squandering the public money. He had, however, heard of a pennyworth of wisdom and a poundsworth of folly.—Mr. Chadwick said the chief part of the expense of cab-hire was incurred during the raging of the cholera, when time was of the greatest importance, and even human life was at stake.

Mr. R. L. Jones thought these charges were highly improper, as they might as well furnish all the officers of the Ordnance with watches. He found one charge of 13*l.* 13*s.* for a quarter's cab-hire, and believed that the area of their district was not so large that there should be any necessity for these charges.—After some other observations, the recommendation as regarded Mr. Lovick was agreed to.—A similar motion was agreed to in the case of Mr. Donaldson.

On the motion that 800 feet of half-brick sewer, 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 3 inches, and 158 feet of 12-inch pipe sewer be laid down in St. George and Gloucester-terraces, Kensington, it was stated by Mr. Hirstalet, the clerk, that the work would be done entirely at the cost of Mr. Lidewick. That gentleman had hitherto resisted the applications of the late Westminster Commissioners, to contribute a proportion of the expense of the drainage of that locality, but he now came forward and was willing to pay the whole amount.—Agreed to.

It was proposed that 705 feet of 12-inch pipe-sewer be put down in the open ditch at the back of Marlborough-place, Old Kent-road. It appeared that the market gardeners had been in the habit of damming up the waters of this ditch for the purpose of irrigating the adjoining land, through which refuse accumulated, and it now contained upwards of 4 feet in depth of filthy deposit. In the plan for its improvement, certain apertures were to be left in the pipes, from which, if desired, the sewage water could be withdrawn. The plan was agreed to.

The following resolution was agreed to on the question of detailed estimates for works:—That the order of court of April 19th, 1849, No. 42, as to detailed estimates, be rescinded, and that all future estimates for works be made on detailed calculations as to separate cost of work and materials; and that the surveyors be prepared whenever called upon by the court or any committee to support their estimate by such calculations.

The Drainage of St. James's Parish, Westminster.—It being stated to the court by the Parling Board of St. James's parish, Westminster, that as they were about to expend 3,000*l.* in the paving of that parish, they wished to know whether this commission contemplated making any new sewers in that district, as a new sewer for Pall Mall had been spoken of. The question was referred to the surveyors, who reported that the sewers in Pall Mall, Bentinck-street, Berkeley-street, Sherrard-street, Queen-street, Blenheim-mews, and Marlborough-mews, were in bad condition; that particularly the sewer in Pall Mall was defective, being flat-bottomed with upright sides, 7 feet in height and 6 feet wide, but that a new sewer there could be effected without disturbing the pavement. Other improvements were proposed, on a minor scale, for the rest of the district.